

REMARKS

Claims 3-10, 12-25 and 48-70 are pending in the application. Claims 3-7, 10, 14-17, 19-24, 50, 53, 54, 56, 58, 59, and 60-69 stand rejected under §102 or §103 as being unpatentable over Lin US Patent 5,716,416. Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, 18, 25, and 70 are allowed. Claims 48, 49, 51, 52, 55, and 57 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons set forth below, favorable reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested.

The present amendments further clarify applicant's earlier amendment that the implant must have a substantially solid center. As indicated by the present amendment, the substantially solid center is observed when looking down at the implant from a top plan view, and not necessarily when looking at the implant from a side cross sectional view. Accordingly, it is the top surface of the implant that has a substantially solid center, as defined in the amended claims.

Lin '416 does not teach or suggest an implant having a substantially solid top surface. In fact, Lin '416 is clear that the implants disclosed therein have a ring shape with an opening in the center.

Favorable reconsideration of the amended application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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